

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 368

To designate April 1, 2006, as “National Asbestos Awareness Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

To designate April 1, 2006, as “National Asbestos Awareness
Day”.

Whereas deadly asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be
smelled or tasted;

Whereas when airborne asbestos fibers are inhaled or swal-
lowed, the damage can be permanent and irreversible;

Whereas those fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis,
lung cancer, and pleural diseases;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to
manifest themselves;

Whereas the expected survival rate of those diagnosed with
mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of, and
there is no cure for, asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases would give patients increased treatment options and often improve their prognosis;

Whereas asbestos is a toxic and dangerous substance and must be disposed of properly;

Whereas nearly half of the more than 1,000 screened firefighters, police officers, rescue workers, and volunteers who responded to the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, have new and persistent respiratory problems;

Whereas the industry groups with the highest incidence rates of asbestos-related diseases, based on 2000 to 2002 data, were shipyard workers, vehicle body builders (including rail vehicles), pipefitters, carpenters and electricians, and workers in the construction (including insulation work and stripping), extraction, energy and water supply, and manufacturing industries;

Whereas the United States imports more than 30,000,000 pounds of asbestos used in products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases kill 10,000 people in the United States each year;

Whereas asbestos exposure is responsible for 1 in every 125 deaths of men over the age of 50;

Whereas safety and prevention will reduce asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been the largest single cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas asbestos is still a hazard for 1,300,000 workers in the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related deaths have greatly increased in the last 20 years;

Whereas 30 percent of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975; and

Whereas the establishment of a “National Asbestos Awareness Day” would raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Senate designates April 1, 2006,
- 2 as “National Asbestos Awareness Day”.

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